THE WOMAN'S
DREADNOUGHT

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THOUGHTS ON THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL

By Rosa Hobhouse

The following extracts from "The London Police Courts To-day and To-morrow," by H. R. Gamon, show forcibly, I think, the utter wrong and futility of giving the police more power in relation to the prostitute, as would be the case under the Criminal Law Amendment Bill. This would be unfair alike to police and prostitutes—to the police because their temptations are, as Mr. Gamon shows, already too great!—to the prostitutes because it will simply drive them deeper into the meshes of intrigue. The experienced prostitute will become more practised in the subsidiary crafts of her trade, namely, bribery and deception. The inexperienced prostitute will merely become a greater prey to the possibilities of blackmail, and in this peril the *innocent* girl will be equally entangled by all such legislation.

There is only one radical remedy for the evil in question—the production of a healthy state of society by the removal of all false conditions in the "East" and "West" ends of our civilisation.

Few people, I believe, have any idea of the enormous release of good that will result from the removal of oppression and injustice in every shape and form. To the ordinary observer of crime, the thief and the prostitude seem, perhaps, entirely different. But they are both largely the fruit of the same processes in society,—the processes of economic pressure, and of artificial living, of the inhumanity expressed in our present social system. Consequently, in my judgment, all who are working for true conditions, whether in Labour, in Housing, in Food, or in Education, are working against these evils most powerfully. A writer in "The Coming Day" for March observes: "As a race we have not yet begun to consider the economics of human life, much less the economics of human and divine love."

In the meantime, whilst a new social order is evolving, in which health of mind and body alike will be possible for all, let us put forward the forces of a widespread and generously-imparted knowledge of good and evil to prevent the triumphs of ignorance, and where the evils have already been fallen into, let us offer, not penalties and punishments, but full and free opportunities for cure and restoration to sound ways of life.

And in all our efforts to curb evil with its death and disease dealing, let us frankly confess to all—even to those who are practising the evils we are trying to combat—that society has been the greatest offender.

THE POLICEMAN AND THE PROSTITUTE.

"The police, too, are sad respecters of persons; they distinguish at once between the silk hat and the battered bowler. . . . When there is no premium on courtesy, the P.C. can afford to be curt. If he is out of humour he need not fear to be high-handed and sudden. . . . The pretty woman of the West may think high of his chivalry; but the pretty woman of the East is not so confident of it. There are those among the police who are ready enough to make obscene remarks to a passing woman whose position makes it safe. Ask a comely Jewess of Whitechapel. . . .

"A man runs grave risk of deterioration in the force. Perhaps on joining he is sent to a division in one of the rougher parts of London. He is, at the start, of high character and decent education. He must indeed be a strong-minded man if his neighbourhood does not react on him. . . . All but the strongest characters are largely moulded by surroundings, and the P.C. is no exception. It is to his credit that he so often remains a good fellow through it all. . . .

"He has great temptations. He is subject not only to the slow under-mining action of the waters of circumstance; he is assailed by corrosive influences of a far more virulent kind.

"He is prone to the vice of 'single men in barracks'; for many of the police are unmarried. I have been told by one qualified to speak that many cases of rescue work that have come under her notice have been traced to the police. The life is calculated to make them peculiarly vulnerable, with its lack of interest and elevating influence. . . . And their opportunities are only too thick; they are dealing continually with prostitutes, and to some extent the prostitute depends upon the sufferance of the police. She is not only liable to be taken to the station, if she solicits and is disorderly, but the P.C. can, in the exercise of his discretion, move her on; and to be moved on from beat to beat means the ruin of her trade. The prostitute is ready to do all she can to conciliate the P.C. whose beat she frequents. . . . There is the temptation of the money bribe. Prostitutes can be blackmailed. . . . There are police who are not ashamed to take from these outlaws and pariahs of society something of their illicit earnings as the price of forbearance."—*From "The London Police Court: To-day and To-morrow," by H. R. P. Gamon, of Exeter College, Oxford, who was released by the Toynbee Trustees to investigate the whole question. Published 1907. (J. M. Dent and Sons.)*

HER GUARDIAN ANGELS

THE CRIMINAL LAW AMENDMENT BILL.

The statement of Mr. Hayes Fisher that the number of cases treated in London Lock hospitals, which, in 1913, was 13,426, had risen in 1916 to 36,500, is a very serious one, and its gravity is driven home by Captain Guest's commentory that on the basis of the usual Army rate of 43 per 1,000 this amounts to 107,600 cases on the basis of last year's Army. Captain Guest delpores that "all those men, with few exceptions, may be regarded as unfit for further use." Our standpoint is not that of the military man who demands efficient cannon fodder, but that of the parents, wives and comrades of these men. Sir H. Greenwood voiced the thought of many parents when he said that those whose sons have come from Canada protest that to have them sent back to them from England ruined in health and a disgrace to their parents, themselves and Canada, is something that parents ought not to be asked to bear. But what is the remedy? We ask: whether the parents themselves have no duty in this matter? Have they given their sons the mental outlook on this question which would be stronger than any statute law? We would further call the attention of parents to the fact that the Army rate of venereal disease is always high, for the irregular intercourse which causes venereal diseases is in line with the traditions of military life. The Government, like the parents, refuses to look this fact in the face, and one of the results is that very dangerous attacks are being made upon the liberty and security of girls.

SNOBBERY

The Ministry is appealing to educated women to enter instructional centres for engineering and to sign undertakings to work under the Ministry of Munitions anywhere in the United Kingdom. We think that every man and woman has a right to the opportunity of an education; but we fail to see why a woman who was educated in the elementary schools, to which the vast majority of the people's children go, should be debarred from entering a training centre for manual work. We cannot understand why a woman should need either a university degree or a middle class environment in order to fit her to replace the skilled artisan. This appeal seems to us a piece of snobbery. We should in any case refuse to respond to it as we are opposed to helping to prolong the War.

STARVING FOR THE COUNTRY

The Paris "Journal" states that 1,700 soldiers who have contracted consumption at the front are at present in Paris unfit to fight and unfit to work. They cannot live on the pension of one franc a day (5s. 10d. a week).

EXAMPLES FROM ANCIENT ROME.

"Those of high station and of noble name should set a right example to those of low condition and of humble birth. We should first do willingly ourselves what we would ask others to perform. So let us, senators and nobles of Rome, put into the public treasury all of our gold, silver, and coined brass. Only reserving those things which being signs of our station are due to our families. And let us do this before passing a decree upon the people, so that our zeal for the welfare of the Republic may inspire them by its pure ardour . . . . . with so much goodwill did every member of the Senate in response to Laevinus' noble words hasten to bring his gold, silver and brass. . . . . that seeing the generosity of the nobles the people were ashamed and quickly brought to the treasury all that they were able to give."

"Yet to neither Roman or Sabine was given the victory of that day, but rather to their women belongs the glory. For to the battlefield they came, full of horror at the dreadful slaughter, crying out 'Peace,' 'Peace' and filling the air with wails and lamentations. So great indeed was their distress and so loud were their entreaties that the terrible contest was stopped and a Council of Peace was held between the two kings and the chief men of their peoples."—From "Stories in Stone from the Roman Forum," by Isabel Lovell.

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THE BUDGET

GAMBLERS' GUESSWORK.

Excess Profits Duty and Excess Mineral Rights Duty, raised from 60 to 80 per cent.

Tobacco Duties doubled.

Entertainment Tax increased. It works out at one-third of cost on tickets between 6d. and 3d., but only one-fifth of cost where the tickets cost 1s.

Shippers may not make up any loss or deficiency incurred after January 1st, 1917, by reducing their subsequent profit returns for the purpose of taxation.

Liquor Licence Duty reduced.

In making his Budget statement on May 2nd, Mr. Bonar Law asked Parliament to accept his figures as "at best more or less intelligent guesses." He added that Mr. McKenna had been £372,733,000 out in his estimate for last year's Budget, and Mr. McKenna himself chimed in to explain that, with a single exception, all the War Budgets had been miscalculated, the constantly rising prices being responsible for the mistakes. When the nation's Chancellor of the Exchequer underestimates expenditure, Parliament good-naturedly makes up the difference with scarcely a word of criticism, but when the poor housewife finds herself in the same position, she and her family have to starve till next week's wage comes in. Yet the Government is largely responsible for the rise in prices and the housewife is not. Mr. Bonar Law admitted that shippers have made unduly high profits during the War, and by raising freight charges have increased the price of all commodities. He admitted that the Government ought to have taken control of ships and shipping charges long ago, and very truly said:

"Merely putting on an Excess Profits Duty when there is something very like a monopoly will always unconsciously have this effect, that the rates are raised in order to increase profits in consequence of the tax."

GOVERNMENT BREAKS AGREEMENT WITH TRADE UNIONS.

In the munitions industry, the enormous demand has created a situation parallel to that of shipping, but in spite of what he had just said, Mr. Law announced that the Excess Profits Duty is to take the place of the Munitions Levy, under which, in the case of controlled munition firms, all profits in excess of 20 per cent. above the pre-War rate are confiscated by the Government. Mr. Law explained the Munitions Levy was instituted as part of the agreement between the Government and the Trade Union leaders, by which the Trade Union customs were sacrificed and the workers were placed under the coercion of the Munitions Act. The workers were assured that their surrender of liberty should be used purely in the interests of the nation, and in order that it might not benefit the private employer the Munitions Levy was set up. Of course, the Munitions Levy only partly accomplished this.

There has been much boasting of wonderful progress made in controlled factories, in speed acceleration, labour saving, and cost reduction; indeed, Mr. Bonar Law, in referring to this matter, said, "we have revolutionised our whole industrial processes." Yet on the flimsy excuse that the Munitions Levy destroys incentive to increased output and efficiency, the solemn agreement entered into with the Trade Unions is now lightly broken. The workers should at once retaliate with demands for the repeal of the Munitions Act and refusal to obey its provisions. Obviously a scandalous piece of jobbery has been effected for the benefit of munition manufacturers—either this or the workers were tricked by the offer of the Munitions Levy in the first place. Yet Mr. J. Clynes said later in the debate that he had "very little objection to offer to the Budget." Had he not noticed the purport of Mr. Law's statement? How extraordinary it is that the Trade Union officials in Parliament can be so blind!

On the other hand, it is not surprising to find the Liberal and Conservative front-benchers combining to approve the breaking of the agreement—such "Liberal and Tory hypocrisy" is not new. Mr. McKenna justified the plot by saying that whilst 140 millions of taxation had been raised by the Excess Profits Duty, the amount obtained by the Munitions Levy was negligible. It cannot be stated too often or too emphatically that it is better not to allow excess profits to be made than to take back a part, or even the whole, of them in taxation, and if the Ministry of Munitions, by means of the Munitions Levy, had succeeded in preventing controlled firms from making more than 20 per cent. extra profit, such action would have been on right lines. But a vivid light was thrown upon the situation by Mr. S. Roberts, who asserted that whilst a very large balanee under the Munitions Levy is due from controlled firms to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Treasury officials have failed to collect it. Why?

The increase in the Excess Profits Duty from 60 to 80 per cent. has been made as a concession to public opinion outraged by the unscrupulous profiteering which is bringing hardship to the middle-class and starvation to the poor, but its only effect will be to accelerate the mounting of prices.

PRICES.

The question of prices is one which should cause each and all of us to determine to alter the present organisation of society. Of what use is it for the workers to combine to secure advances in wages; of what use is it to agitate for increased separation allowances or higher pensions for the disabled or the aged, if, by the operations of the money market, the labour and sacrifice of years is to be undone?

"Eat less bread," says the King's proclamation, "eat less bread," say the Bishops and politicians, whilst the Food Control Department threatens compulsory limitation if we do not all voluntarily reduce our bread allowance. But prices prevent the mass of the people from buying other foods than bread, costly as bread itself is to-day, and the price of bread and other foods means that poor people cannot procure food enough to keep them in health. Mr. Arnold pointed out that before the War 25s. provided only the bare minimum subsistence for a man and wife and a small family of children, and that 37s. scarcely suffices for the same minimum to-day, whilst the lowest taxable income, £130, will soon be below the subsistence level. At the other end of the scale high prices have so enormously increased the incomes of the rich, that though great increases were expected on Excess Profit Duty, this Duty exceeded the estimate by £53,920,000, whilst Income Tax and Super Tax exceeded the estimates by £7,930,000, and £2,103,000. Mr. Bonar Law assured the House that it is "our duty . . . to use our resources, financial or otherwise, in aid of our Allies in precisely the same way as if they were spent upon ourselves." But can we not practice that doctrine here at home, as between man and man and woman and woman?

In view of the huge fortunes which the rich are making, Mr. Bryce complained that the workers are buying silk dresses and fur coats, and Sir Frederick Banbury, the representative of bankers and financiers, complained that wages have been most unnecessarily raised!

When Mr. McKenna was Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Mr. Runciman President of the Board of Trade, we interviewed them and urged them to endeavour to bring about an international agreement to control prices, as well as enforcing a rigid limitation on the price and profit of articles produced in this country. They answered that our request in both directions was Utopian. In last Wednesday's Budget debate, Mr. McKenna said that now America, "the great supplier of the world," had come into the War, such an international agreement ought to be possible. Such an agreement would have been concluded long ago if the welfare of peoples, and not the profits of the capitalists, from whose ranks politicians chiefly come, were the first concern of the world's Cabinet Ministers! Mr. Bonar Law protested that whilst the British shippers have made enormous excess profits:

"They have acted in the same way as any other business men would have acted, and nothing would be more futile and unfair than to accuse them of any special lack of patriotism, or any special degree of weakness in taking advantage of the situation."

That is why we do not want business men to control the Government, for if they do, they will see to it that their business interests shall always take first place, and that every law which seems to protect the people against them shall be merely a sham. That is why, too, we want to see the basis of society reorganised, so that there shall be no private capitalists whose business it is to exploit the rank and file of men and women, but a co-operative brotherhood and sisterhood of workers.

Under the present system, prices will rise till the War ends, unless the Governments of the world decide that they shall remain stationary, and of that there is no prospect until the people revolt.

THE DEBT OF THE FUTURE.

Mr. Bonar Law drew an appalling picture, which he appeared to think quite cheerful, of War indebtedness to be borne for 42 or 43 years after peace comes. He estimated that the Excess Profits Duty would cease at the close of the War (even, we suppose, should enormous profits be made in re-construction work); also that the Income Tax, even down to the limit of £130, the Death Duties and other taxation, including the heavy charges on tea and sugar, would remain as at present, whilst for 42 or 43 years the national expenditure on things that the people need would remain, in spite of the growth of population and any other changes, exactly as it is at present. In normal times national expenditure is constantly growing: to check that growth would mean a most hideous stultification of national development. Mr. Law calculated that if the War had ended on March 31st, when the national debt was £3,584,000,000 we should have been able to pay off the War debts at the rate of £153,000,000 per annum, and in 43 years to find a balance to the good of about £59,000,000 on condition of maintaining our War taxes as at present, and only extending our pre-War expenditure by £30,000,000 for War pensions and educational development. If the War ends on March 31st next, he thinks, we may still scrape through, but the balance to the good will be only £2,000,000. But if the War continues still longer? What then?

Mr. S. Arnold presented other calculations to prove that on the same basis of taxation with the added expenditure of £30,000,000 a year for the Army and Navy after the War, there will be a deficit of £30,000,000 if the War ends on March 31st next. He urged that the Income Tax should be raised to 6s. 3d. in the £. Mr. Outhwaite declared that it ought to be 10s.

But surely the people, the oppressed, exploited workers, who produce all real wealth, will demand release from this nightmare of capitalism, under which the masses starve and are cold, though they toil each day from childhood to old age! Surely they will not be prepared to continue bearing the old burden of capitalism with the added weight which the War has placed upon them! The 5 per cent. War Loan, advertised from our pulpits and amounting to £2,069,845,000, in itself places an enormous burden of interest upon the people. Can we not cast aside the system which makes it possible for those who have money to lend, to mortgage, by its means, the labour of others?

THE IMPERIAL CONFERENCE.

The speeches of members of the Government and the resolutions passed by the members of the Imperial Conference show no realisation of the all-embracing need for relief from the hideous system which has so long enslaved the people, no awakening to the idea that tariff walls and Armies and Navies belong to the era of barbarism, from which the human race must pass, if it would reach a higher stage. The delegates to the Imperial Conference called, in their blindness, for new schemes of Naval defence for the Empire and for extending the production of munitions and naval and military material, even to the far countries bordering on the Pacific and Indian Oceans. So poisonous T.N.T. and Lyddite may shortly do their death-

(Continued on back page).

QUESTIONS OF THE DAY

ELECTORAL REFORM

The Scottish Trades Union Congress at its annual conference passed resolutions unanimously in favour of Adult Suffrage and Peace by Negotiation. Both resolutions were supported by the National Union of Scottish Mineworkers.

THE PAUPER DISQUALIFICATION

At a recent meeting of the Poor Law Union Association the Parliamentary Committee stated that a resolution adopted by the Association in 1910 had been submitted to the Speaker's Conference asking "That persons should not be disfranchised on account of the receipt of Poor-Law relief, except as regards voting at elections for Boards of Guardians." Sir Henry Manton moved as an amendment: "That this Council, being of opinion that the disfranchisement of recipients of parochial relief has no deterrent effect upon the undeserving, and only inflicts additional hardship on the good and self-respecting who are compelled to seek parochial relief, hereby urges that any scheme of electoral reform should provide that parochial relief of any description should cease to disqualify for voting at any election." The amendment was carried by 13 votes to 7.

ADULT SUFFRAGE IN RUSSIA

We rejoice to learn that the Russian Home Secretary has introduced a Provisional Electoral Bill, which will remain in force until the Constituent Assembly has passed a permanent measure. Under the Provisional Bill the vote will be granted to every person over 21 years of age, without difference of nationality, religion, sex, or property on three months' residence.

RUSSIAN WORKERS' TRIUMPH

As the result of demonstrations of protest, and after a joint conference between the Workmen's and soldiers' Delegates and the Russian Provisional Government, the Government was forced to publish the following explanation of Milyukoff's Note of May 1st to the Powers expressing determination to secure a decisive victory:—

"The Government deems it to be its right and duty to declare now that Free Russia does not aim at the domination of other nations, at depriving them of their national patrimony, or at occupying by force foreign territories, but that its object is to establish a durable peace on the basis of the rights of nations to decide their own destiny. The Russian nation does not lust after the strengthening of its power abroad at the expense of other nations. Its aim is not to subjugate or humiliate anyone. In the name of the higher principles of equity the Russian people has broken the chains which fettered the Polish nation, but it will not suffer that its own country shall emerge from the great struggle humiliated or weakened in its vital forces."

This remarkable climb down on the part of the Government shows the great power of the Workmen's and Soldiers' Delegates. Will the British Trade Union Congress ever claim a similar power?

THE "DREADNOUGHT"

AN EDITORIAL APPEAL.

DEAR FRIENDS,—

The stock of paper we have been using for THE DREADNOUGHT is exhausted, and now our printers are not able to buy more except at a higher price. The metal used in the linotype also costs more, and the wages of the employees in the printing trade have been increased. Therefore the printer has notified us that the price of printing THE DREADNOUGHT will be substantially raised.

Already we have increased the selling price to our readers from a halfpenny to a penny. Numbers of our readers, especially the parents of large families of young children, find it difficult to spare even a penny a week in these hard times. If we were to raise the price of the paper, we know that our readers of long standing would continue to take the paper, but the steady growth of new readers would undoubtedly receive a check, and an increase in price which would reduce the circulation or check its growth would defeat its own object, beside being a serious drawback to the propaganda work which the paper is able to do.

If we were to use a cheaper quality of paper, our print would not stand out so crisply black and white as it does: our DREADNOUGHT would therefore be less readable; we could not reproduce photographs on our front page, and even our line drawings would suffer in appearance. A propaganda paper cannot afford to neglect such considerations, and we must always remember that its mission is to make converts. THE DREADNOUGHT is very successful in this work, as letters from readers of all kinds and classes testify. The tired eyes of busy people shrink from blurred type and grey, unattractive-looking sheets, and the unattractive newspaper often fails to sow the seed of awakening propaganda. A striking cartoon often arrests the attention of people who otherwise would not stop to read.

To reduce the size of the paper would be to rob it of many valuable features. Our space is all too restricted as it is.

Therefore we ask our readers to help us. In order to maintain the paper as it is we must raise an extra £10 a week for it by donations. This can be done by a number of small weekly donations. We ask each one of you to help us.

Can you send us a regular weekly or monthly donation, however small?

Can you get 6 or 12 new readers to the paper this month?

Can you get your newsagent to stock the paper and arrange with him that a notice of its principal contents shall be chalked either on his blackboard or on the pavement outside his shop?

Can you see that the Trade Unions, Women's and Socialist organisations in your district have the DREADNOUGHT on sale at their meetings?

If the price of paper and printing had remained what it was at the outbreak of the War, the DREADNOUGHT would have been paying its way long since. As it is, our financial progress has been retarded, but with our readers' help we shall in time establish the paper in an assured position.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

SHIPPING

In spite of his declaration that the Government ought to have taken control of shipping earlier, Mr. Bonar Law's statement on that head was vague and unsatisfactory. Some, but not all, the shipping is to be requisitioned at fixed rates of profit, the rate of profit is not made public. The profit of unrequisitioned ships is not to be fixed because, says Mr. Bonar Law: "We are all human, and people are not very likely to work when they get nothing out of it."

The workers have to toil for fixed wages.

MAY-DAY IN GLASGOW

The workers on Clydeside had a great fête on Sunday when they celebrated May Day by a procession, demonstration and musical festivals. It has been estimated that over 70,000 persons took part in the processions, which took nearly two hours to pass a given point. The route was lined by a vast concourse of people, the majority of whom wore red colours. It is reckoned that over 200,000 people took part in or witnessed the procession. The demonstration on Glasgow Green was equally successful. There were 18 platforms, each surrounded by a multitude, and over a hundred speakers. The speaking was frankly anti-War and was approved as such. At one platform a man, supposed to be a Government official, was observed to be taking a report of Councillor Dollan's speech, and the crowd cleared him out in a few seconds and terminated his reporting most effectively. At any rate, he recorded no more speeches at that platform. Every section of the working-class movement, including the co-operators, was represented at the demonstration, which unanimously passed a resolution sending "fraternal greetings to the workers of the world" and declaring for "the overthrow of capitalism and the establishment of a co-operative commonwealth, based on production for use." This resolution was supported by the members of 215 organisations. In the evening over 6,000 persons attended Socialist musical festivals held in the Coliseum and Metropole Theatres under the auspices of the May Day Committee.—"DEMOCRAT."

MAY-DAY IN LONDON

Twenty-five thousand London workers celebrated May Day in Finsbury Park. The speeches were all pacifist.

ADVERTISING A DISCREDITED PREMIER

By P. J. DOLLAN.

In connection with the Lloyd George advertising campaign that has been started in Scotland it is proposed that the bouncing Premier should be admitted to the Freedom of the leading cities, including that of Glasgow. This booming of Lloyd George is increasing to give him a chance of regaining some of his pre-War popularity in Scotland, where now he is distrusted by the Liberals, suspected by the Tories, and despised by the Labourists and Socialists. Ever since he was booed off the platform in St. Andrew's Hall, Glasgow, on December 25th, 1915, by a conference of trade union delegates, Lloyd George has been a discredited man in Scottish political circles. Consequently his Junior Whips and agents are attempting to re-habilitate him among the Scottish people by arranging social engagements for him which will provide him with opportunities for making non-party speeches in favour of Mr. Lloyd George, and showing by inference how God sent him to save Britain and world-wide Democracy from being trampled in the dust by Prussian militarism. These social engagements, of course, will enable the Welsh wobbler to meet the "best people" whose aid he wants to enlist in the formation of his new national party. Even Mrs. George has been brought into the campaign and she, dear lady, has been in Scotland two or three times recently as the leading figure at certain functions in an endeavour to smile her husband back into favour. It's a very pretty game for a Premier of Great Britain!

Glasgow, for example, is one place where the premier political adventurer is not among the beloved and so the idea of having him to address an open meeting in that city has had to be abandoned. An open meeting would be disastrous to his political future for the Trade Unionists would be sure to run a counter-demonstration as a protest against the persecution which has been served out to some of their comrades at the instigation of Lloyd George. But the hint has been given to the civic authorities that the Premier would not be averse to visiting Glasgow at an early date if the Town Council would agree to confer on him the honour known as the "Freedom of the City." The Town Council, by a majority, has decided to confer this honour on Lloyd George, and by doing so has besmirched an honour hitherto held by the citizens of Glasgow in high esteem. Moreover, to confer the Freedom of Glasgow upon Lloyd George is an insult to the workers of Glasgow, whose freedom and liberty have been dragged through the mire by the most unscrupulous political adventurer of our time. When honest men like David Kirkwood and his comrades are denied the freedom of Glasgow—their own city—it is preposterous that it should be given to Lloyd George, who has never denied his responsibility for the deportation of Kirkwood and his friends. If there is no freedom of Glasgow for Kirkwood and his comrades the workers should see that there is no freedom of Glasgow for Lloyd George. The Town Council will not persist in their advertising of Lloyd George if the workers show a decent opposition.

If the workers of Glasgow accept Mr. George, the apostle of the knock-out blow for others in a War which brings misery and slavery to the common people and fame and position to him, as a Freeman of their city, they will be disgraced for all time in the history of Democracy. The workers of Glasgow demonstrated conclusively on Christmas Day, 1915, that they were not to be played with by a political mountebank and they are still capable of showing to all the world that this man George is no friend of Freedom and unworthy to be admitted to the honour of a Freeman of their city. Every Labour, Trade Union, and Democratic organisation in Glasgow ought to make individual and collective protest against the proposal of the Town Council to confer the Freedom of Glasgow upon a man who abuses his power to keep gentlemen like David Kirkwood in exile and John Maclean in prison. If the workers will make their protest immediately and effectively their city may be spared the dishonour of a visit from a man who has tyrannised Glasgow citizens, because of their allegiance to the sacred and eternal cause of Freedom, during the past two years. Think of his record concerning Glasgow since the War began. He was more or less responsible for:

The imprisonment of the three Fairfield shipwrights;

The imprisonment of Maxton, MacDougall, Smith, and MacLean;

The imprisonment of Bell, Muir, and Gallacher because of their association with "The Worker";

The forcible deportation of Kirkwood, Merser, McManus, Haggarty, Shields, Wainwright, Glass, Clarke, and Bridges;

The suppression of the "Vanguard," the organ of the British Socialist Party;

The suppression of "The Worker," the organ of the Clyde Workers' Committee;

The suspension of "The Socialist," the organ of the Socialist Labour Party;

The suspension of "Forward";

The temporary military censorship over the Civic Press Limited, the printing business of the Glasgow Trade Unions;

The raiding of Socialist homes.

The above are only a few of the outrages committed on Glasgow freemen during the past two years at the instance of this man now proposed as a Freeman of Glasgow. The proposal is not only an insult to Glasgow: it is an insult to the cause of Freedom: an insult to the workers of Glasgow. The latter will surely dissociate themselves entirely from the attempt of political plotters to exploit a Glasgow honour to bolster up the career of a politician who has used the trust of the people to gain for himself the power with which he might enslave them. The workers of Glasgow will honour no man who has won power and position by betraying the people who bore him from obscurity into the glare of prominence. If the Liberals in South Aberdeen and South Edinburgh could repudiate Lloyd George as being unworthy of Liberalism, the workers of Glasgow can hardly accept him as a Freeman of their city.

WAR-TIME VERSES

W. N. Ewer's "Five Souls"* has so truly pictured the War situation, the pity and shame of it, that it grips us all and though many of the other war-time verses with which it is now re-published are vividly arresting, it will probably remain the most popular. Nevertheless, many of the other poems are remarkable, one of these, "1814-1914 on Reading the Dynasts," tells us the history of war and capitalist diplomacy in a few graphic words, from which we quote:

"'Europe in danger—her liberties imperilled,'
So the Statesmen cried.
Stern, stupid Englishmen, foolishly believing them
Marched and fought and died.
When the Corsican was broken
And the pale suffering peoples thought their freedom due
France got—her Bourbons back; Italy—her Bomba:
England—Peterloo."

"Remember Scarborough," tells a truth that will be clearly apparent to the mass of the workers after the War:

"REMEMBER SCARBOROUGH"

THE APPEAL.

"WORKING MEN of England! Have you forgotten Scarborough?
The white, drawn faces of the children that were killed?
How can you forget the women slain at Hartlepool?
How can you rest with your vengeance unfulfilled?"

THE ANSWER.

"Vengeance for these must our German brothers take for us,
When the day shall come for vengeance we have other work to do!
There are blood-stains still on the paving-stones of Dublin:
A hundred years have passed—but we remember Peterloo!

"There are widows still in the streets of Tonypandy:
In Mitchelstown and Featherstone our brothers' blood was shed,
Take heed, oh, our masters, how you talk to us of vengeance,
Lest we turn on you—and take it—and avenge our English dead."

May, 1915.

There are several brief, masterly pieces of sarcasm. Here is one of them:

PRINCIPLES.

"No Free Trade principle of any kind is compromised."
—MR. MCKENNA.

"Cynics complain that Liberals have betrayed
The Freedom of our Press, our Speech, our Trade.
Yet why complain? No Freedom's left in fact,
But still—the Principle remains intact."

October, 1915.

* "Five Souls," and other War-time verses, by W. N. Ewer, 1s. net. ("The Herald," 21 Tudor Street, Fleet Street, E.C.).

RECEIVED FOR REVIEW.

The National Council for Civil Liberties, 22 Bride Lane, E.C., has published a useful leaflet explaining the latest Military Service Act, dealing with the "Review of Exceptions," and frequently called the Conscription of Cripples' Bill.

MANY WOMEN JOIN UNION

The weekly figures of the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks still show an enormous preponderance of women over men in the new membership. In the week ending May 5th 36 new men members were ratified and 413 women. The Union's weekly notice states: "From the point of view of both men and women, it is well that the latter are exercising common sense and foresight in taking steps to protect themselves as soon as they enter the Distributive Trades. Unless women are organised they will undoubtedly be exploited by employers later on when they come into keener competition with men, and consequently men's wages would also be kept at a lower level. Some of the women who have comparatively recently joined the organisations have been able to more than double the wages which they were being paid. As the number of women members increases, so their interest in the work is stimulated, and they are taking various offices in Branch work such as chairmanship, secretarial and treasurer's duties. On the other hand the Union's table of contributions was framed to meet an influx of a larger proportion of men than women, and if the present ratio of new enrolments continues the Executive Committee will have to find ways and means of meeting a situation which had not been anticipated."

The remedy is for men and women to receive equal wages and pay equal contributions to their Trade Unions.

WOMEN WORKERS' CONFERENCE

A conference was held under the auspices of the Standing Joint Committee of Women's Industrial Organisations on May 5th. Resolutions were adopted demanding the reduction of the working hours of all persons over 18 to 48 hours, and of all persons under 18 to 24 hours per week; the abolition of night work for women and young persons and its reduction for men; and a larger number of women factory inspectors; also declaring in favour of the provision by local authorities of canteens and hostels for the workers, and urging that the housing of women workers should be the duty of such authorities when an influx of workers takes place in a particular industry.

Miss Mary Macarthur said that in a great number of factories to-day there was no word more hated by the workers than "welfare," because some employers had adopted "welfare" schemes merely to procure increased efficiency.

A telegram received in Berlin from Vienna states that a Socialist mass meeting took place there yesterday in favour of the women's franchise. Some thousands were present, most of whom were women.

MUNICIPAL WORK FOR WOMEN

The Chelsea Borough Council has received a deputation of ladies urging the desirability of co-opting women on local governing bodies, as there is no way open to women at present to secure representation on the borough councils except by co-optation, since no elections are to be held during the War.

BEANS & THE FOOD CONTROLLER

It was stated last week that the Food Controller had made himself the sole buyer of Burmah beans, but immediately there followed a great scarcity of such beans. Communal kitchens or cost price restaurants, as they are also called, are now the fashion, but the W.S.F. has had two such institutions in East London since the early days of the War. Our cost price restaurant in Bow experienced the same difficulty in procuring beans after the Food Controller took them over as that which faced our neighbours, and we therefore wrote to him and to the Board of Trade. The reply received was merely that the beans are to be procured through the "ordinary channels of trade." What is the use of all this talk about communial kitchens if the kitchens are short of food?

CORRESPONDENCE

THE DEVONPORT DEPUTATION.

Dear Editor,—I read the article in the DREADNOUGHT for the week ending April 8th. I foresee, like Miss Pankhurst, unless the Food Controller starts rationing everyone serious trouble is ahead of us. As it was truly said to him, women cannot obtain a quarter of a pound of sugar unless tea and other things are bought, whilst you see in Oxford Street and other places in the West-end packed with cakes and chocolates at 3s. 6d. per lb. This the Food Controller promised to put down some weeks ago, but it still goes on. We read there is a coal famine. You see poor women struggling along with a few pounds of coals and coke; the same day you see tons of coal being poured into the cellars of the rich. We also read that last week more fish came into market than any week since before the War, and yet the prices of the same still continue high, and meat is also the same price as in the West-end, but of an inferior quality. I do think it time the Food Controller saw about these food profiteers in the East-end.—Yours, a WELL WISHER to the Women's Suffrage Cause.

A LETTER TO THE "MOTHERS' ARMS."

London Hospital.

Dear Nurse,—I was so pleased with your letter and books. I showed the doctor and our ward sister your letter, but I could not quite grasp your meaning about going into a convalescent home. Of course, I should have very much have liked to have gone, but Sister has told me to tell you that we have only one convalescent home going at Mitcham, and that is closed owing to measles. I am going home on Monday. I am better, the doctor says. Of course, you see they are waiting for the beds as they are urgently needed. They cure the complaint, but it is not like an Infirmary: they cannot keep you here till you get strong. They got me up a little while last night, and I was quite surprised to find that I could not walk one step; I had to be wheeled in a chair. But Nurse says a few more nights will make a difference. I am still in bed. I was weighed last Tuesday week and my weight was 7 stone 11 lbs. 5 ozs. This Tuesday it was 3 lbs. more. A quiet life and good food agrees with me, I think, don't you, Nurse? Well, dear, I am sure you have been very kind to me, and goodness knows many a time what I would have done without your help; but that is the worst of a helpless creature like me. Once you have help it seems you always want it. That is not really my way, but it seems there is no other for me under the circumstances. I should have liked to adopt "Independence" for my motto, but I have a crime against me: I have got too many children. I have been told that in here by one or two, that I ought to have been more wise. Well, I am not sorry for having my little family myself, Nurse, only sorry I don't get more money to keep health and strength together.

I must now close my letter, with kind wishes and feelings and extreme thankfulness for all your kindness to me,—I am, Yours faithfully, Mrs. B.

A "CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS'" CONFERENCE.

Dear Editor,

In your report of the I.L.P. Conference in your issue of April 21st you state that "It was a C.O.s' Conference. Many of the delegates were on leave from prison or Alternative Service." Unfortunately, it is not possible to obtain "leave from prison"! It is unfortunate that such a statement should appear, as it is likely to confirm the belief, apparently very common, that Conscientious Objectors are having quite a comfortable time in prison, with special relaxation of the ordinary prison rules on their behalf. With regard to Alternative Service Conscientious Objectors who are doing this work as a condition of their exemption from military service, and who want to arrange for a day's absence, do not have to obtain leave from any authority except their employer in the normal course. The men in the Home Office camps, on the other hand, do have to obtain special leave, both for absence and for travelling, from the Home Office Committee. A few of these were present at the Conference, most of them from the neighbouring H.O. Settlement at Wakefield. Many of the men in the camps object to their employment being described as Alternative Service. They regard it rather as alternative *punishment*, since it is imposed with penal conditions. Some of them would have accepted Alternative Service from the Tribunals had they been offered it. Others had refused Alternative Service, and would still refuse it, but are prepared to do work in the camps, under the conditions laid down, as an alternative to doing similar work in prison. I hope I have made these points clear. The relative position of the C.O.s in prison, in Home Office camps, and doing Alternative Service, is rather complicated. I should not have attempted to explain it except through a paper like yours, which is such a good friend of the Conscientious Objector.—Yours, etc., CATHERINE MARSHALL, Acting Hon. Sec. of the No-Conscription Fellowship.

[We are glad to print Miss Marshall's interest letter, but when we referred to the I.L.P. Conference as "A Conscientious Objectors' Conference" we meant that the outlook of the Conscientious Objectors dominated the conference, not that the delegates were necessarily C.O.s. Also our use of the expression "on leave" from prison or Alternative Service was not meant to be technical, but rather to suggest a brief respite from captivity. At least one delegate had been released from a term of imprisonment, not under the Military Service Acts, it is true, but on account of his opposition to the War, and no doubt he, like others, will be pounced on shortly by the military authorities.]

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Dear Editor,—On a visit to my husband to-day I learnt that the interned men at Alexandra Palace, practically all of whom are married to English women, held a crowded May Day meeting and passed a resolution protesting energetically against their wrongful and purposeless internment, deploring the continual and baseless insinuations directed against them and their families, who, in many cases, are living in misery and privation. They sincerely welcomed the Russian Revolution as showing the way to a return to common sense and as a result of which all persecutions of so-called "alien enemies" there have been ordered to cease, and all law against them will be abolished. The meeting further declared its conviction that the capitalistic system which had brought on the present catastrophe had forfeited any claim to existence, and expressed its hope for a coming reorganisation on socialistic lines.—THE WIFE OF AN INTERNED ALIEN.

A Canadian friend writes: THE DREADNOUGHT has been coming for two weeks now, and it is simply splendid. It gives me all sorts of news that I wanted, but could not get. . . . I have a friend here who wants to get the paper, too. She is helping me in forming a Woman's Peace Party here. People know so little about real peace, it takes a lot of educating, and this country is so big, we cannot get into touch with people. . . . We are lucky in having our French Canadians, or we should have conscription and all that goes with it. But they say if they have to fight they will fight in Canada. A very sensible idea."

HEARD IN THE TRAIN: *A MUNITION WORKER'S VIEW.*

Woman Munition Worker: "The only ones as 'ad a soft job in t'factory was t'men. We useter find 'em behind t'barrers sleepin'. Aye, but there was one woman as was strong! She useter pick up one of them forty-pound shells like this 'ere—'catch—! catch—!'"

Soldier: "I should like to have been there at supper-time to have heard you telling your experiences."

She: "Aye, we 'ad some experiences. I've been pumice-stoning me 'ands for a fortnight since I left to bring 'em back to the usual. I was frightened when I first went yeller. Yer face goes khaki like that (pointing to his coat). If I'd 'ave been there longer—why, I was goin' green! There was one girl there, she 'ad green ribbon in 'er 'air, you couldn't tell which was t' ribbon and which was 'er hair. I on'y saw one like that though!

He: "Did you stay in hostels?"

She: "No, in proper lodgin's."

He: "You had fine times, I expect."

She: "First week we was there we was on night duty: we was that tired, we uster go ter bed soon as we got in an' never get up till we 'ad ter go back ter work."

He: "Did you hear anything of the explosions?"

She: "Didn't we? We 'eard one every day, an' there was accidents, every day we was there! I never want ter see any more so long as I live! An' that 'orrible fume! Yer eyes 'ud start runnin' and yer nose 'ud start bleedin' and yer-'adn't time even ter take out yer-ankerchief."

He: "You'd be setting a man free for the Army, though."

She: "The last wish I should wish anyone 'ud be to be in the Army!—unless I 'ad a grudge agin 'im.

He: "They're making up a division of women to go to France."

She: "Aye. That's what we volunteered for, and we found ourselves at munitions. But I'm glad we didn't go over there: we *should* 'ave been 'andicapped!"

He: "What did they pay you at munitions?"

She: "Oh, we did well: we never earnt less than £2 a week."

He: "Why didn't you stop there?"

She: "Not me: I wouldn't 'ave stopped if they give me sixteen pounds a week!"

(Whispered conversation continues for some time.)

He: "There'll be more rows after the war than there was before."

She: "Aye; I'll bet there is!"

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

May 1st.—Lord Robert Cecil (U.) said that there had been no consultation with the United States Government in the matter of the policy of reprisals as practised by the British Government. This is a great pity, as we should like to have President Wilson's observations on the subject of the Freiburg raid.

FOOD.

Captain Bathurst (U.) said, in answer to Mr. Wason (L.), that the cost of compulsory rationing, or the adoption of bread tickets, would be very large, but he did not think that the alternative suggestion to restrict the sale of bread within certain hours would materially affect consumption.

(Note.—The Bristol Master Bakers and Millers refused to supply the Port Talbot Co-operative Society with flour, because they sold their bread at 2d. per loaf cheaper than the other bakers.)

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In answering a question relating to enemy naval attacks on the Kent Coast, Sir Edward Carson (U.) said that although the loss of life was regrettable, "it must be remembered that they (presumably the lives) possess no military value." This will be very comforting for the people of Kent, but nothing is said as to the human value of the lives lost.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Discussing the enormous activity of his Department in putting up new buildings for the purposes of the War, Sir Alfred Mond (L.) stated that in spite of higher wages and higher cost of timber and material generally, the cost had in some cases worked out at 3.65d. per foot cube, whereas the cost before the War would have been 7d. This statement is interesting but damaging, because it means that before the War somebody got considerably more than 3.35d. per foot cube for nothing. The Building Trades workers were not getting it; they were actually on strike at the time, asking for enough to live on.

REMOVAL OF THE GRILLE.

On the Houses of Parliament Buildings Expenditure Vote, Mr. Dickinson (L.) asked for the removal of the grille in front of the Ladies' Gallery. Prior to 1778 ladies sat in the House, but on great occasions so many came that they occupied the seats of Members. In 1778 an Order was made for the exclusion of strangers, but the officials had great difficulty in executing the Order, and it took two hours to remove the ladies, who protested that they were entitled to be there. For 50 years after no woman was allowed to listen to the debates in the House. Mrs. Sheridan had to appear in man's clothes in order to hear her husband's great speech. In 1835, when the Houses of Parliament were rebuilt, a quarter of the Strangers' Gallery was allocated to ladies and the grille was put in front of it. There is no grille in the House of Lords. Mr. Gwynne (U.) and Mr. Butcher (U.) were the only Members who questioned the advisability of the removal of the grille.

Sir Alfred Mond (L.) said that technically he had the authority to remove the grille on his own action, and was prepared to take action. He wanted a clear expression of opinion.

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May 2nd.—Mr. G. Lambert (L.) asked for Regulations to restrict the slaughter of cows and heifers in view of the shortage of milk. Mr. Prothero (L.) said the matter was being considered, and it might be decided in three weeks' time. Meanwhile the cows are being slaughtered.

COMPULSORY RATIONING SCHEME.

Captain Bathurst (U.) said that the machinery for dealing with the food rationing scheme would be set up at once, though it would take time before it could be set in operation. The scheme is now before the War Cabinet.

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Mr. Snowden (Lab.) asked whether the British delegates to Petrograd had accepted the formula of peace without indemnities or annexations, and whether it had the sanction of the British Government. Lord R. Cecil (U.) had no information.

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Mr. S. Samuels (U.) protested against the granting of a Charter to the British Trading Corporation without its being discussed in the House of Commons.

THE GRILLE OF THE LADIES' GALLERY.

In reply to Commander Bellairs (U.) the Speaker said he thought that the removal of the grille was a question on which the House ought to be asked to pronounce an opinion.

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May 3rd.—On the adjournment, Mr. Scott complained that the War Office passes men into the Army for garrison duty at home and abroad in B1 and C1, who are admitted by the military doctors to be suffering from valvular disease of the heart and other serious complaints. He had asked whether this is in accordance with the War Office instructions and had been told that it is. He also complained that skilled workmen in C2 are employed as unskilled labourers, and mentioned the case of some of these men who were natives of Glasgow, and were suddenly transferred to the Reserve. Whilst working in England their pay was stopped, their wives' allowances were stopped, and for some time they could get no work. Mr. Macpherson replied that the War Office could not pay railway fares of men released to work under the Ministry of Munitions, and that since this case occurred men get a week's pay when transferred to the Reserve. He was in the course of evading the other points when it was seen that forty Members were not present, so he was saved further trouble. The House of Pretence then adjourned.

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May 3rd.—Mr. Butcher (U.) pressed for an increase in the Old Age Pension to meet the rise in the cost of living, but was told that the Government does not intend to revise the present scale. Old age pensioners are of no "military value"!

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The question of exporting potatoes from Ireland was discussed, English Members wanting them to be exported and Irish Members opposing it. Mr. Russell (L.) said that only seed potatoes were allowed to leave the country under licence. The shortage of maize for feeding pigs and of milk was also brought forward.

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Mr. T. Wilson (Lab.) drew attention to the fact that £1,500 worth of fish had to be destroyed at Billingsgate Wharf owing to shortage of labour in unloading two ships.

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Mr. Ginnell (N.) still persists in trying to obtain information about the Ceylon riots, but each time the officials concerned are exonerated from all responsibility.

Mr. Steel-Maitland (U.) refused to publish Sir J. Anderson's report on his investigations.

ADDING INSULT TO INJURY.

Sir C. Kinloch-Cook (U.), in a question about conscientious objectors, called them "so-called" conscientious objectors, to which Mr. Rendall (L.) took exception. The Speaker said: "It is an unnecessary epithet, we all know what conscientious objectors are."

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The question of Mr. Norman's speech at the I.L.P. Conference, reported in the "Western Evening Herald," was objected to, but Mr. Brace (Lab.) said that the police had no verbatim report of it, and it was dangerous to rely on Press reports.

CANADIAN WHEAT OFFER.

Mr. Steel-Maitland (U.), in reply to Mr. Pringle (L.), supplied telegrams between the Canadian and British Governments in September last, the former offering 50 to 70 million bushels of wheat, which the Department of Agriculture would undertake to purchase if desired in the same manner as they purchase hay and oats for the War Office. No acceptance was recorded.

CHINESE LABOUR IN GLASGOW.

May 4th.—In answer to Mr. Snowden (Lab.), Mr. Kellaway (L.) said that 20 Chinese labourers were employed by Maclaren and Co., of the Port Eglington Ironworks; they were ships' firemen and had been recruited in London, and that instructions had been sent to the firm to remove the labour.

SAUCE FOR THE GANDER!

Mr. Anderson (Lab.) stated that 30,000 engineers had ceased work in South Lancashire because of the inaction of the Ministry of Munitions in connection with a dispute at Rochdale affecting 500 engineers. The employers had refused to comply with the Regulations under the Munitions of War Act. Instead of lodging a complaint at once, the Ministry had been making attempts at conciliation for six weeks, but without success; 30,000 engineers had to strike before the Government would deal with the employer as it deals with the workmen.

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The Billeting of Civilians Bill was rushed through Committee. Dr. Addison then moved the Third Reading, promising that an amendment to compensate householders for loss occasioned by billeted persons bringing disease into the house should be covered by a rule instead of becoming law. Many protests were made against the hasty and ill-considered procedure adopted and Mr. Anderson moved to re-commit the Bill. Mr. Richardson seconded the motion and talked till five p.m., when the House had to adjourn. This was a well-directed blow to the Government such as it does not frequently receive.

OUR EFFICIENT RULERS.

May 7th.—Several members drew attention to the serious loss of food caused by ships which had completed their voyages successfully being allowed to land their passengers and then proceed to other ports with their cargoes. In several cases of this sort the ships had been torpedoed and the cargoes lost. Sir Leo Chiozza-Money's (L.) answer was that "the whole of this subject was receiving the most serious consideration at the present time."

MR. OUTHWAITE AND CHARLES I.

The former called attention to the fact that the Lower House of Convocation had decided to restore Charles I. to the Church Calendar as a Saint and Martyr.. Mr. Outhwaite (L.) also pointed out that the Legitimist heir to our Throne was Prince Rupprecht of Bavaria, the invader of Belgium, and brother to the Queen of the Belgians.

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During a short discussion on the Excess Profits Tax, Mr. Bonar Law (U.) said that it had been suggested that the shipowners were being treated as if they were the forty thieves. He had never had that feeling about shipowners. They had acted like business men . . . . !!

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May 7th.—Mr. Herbert Fisher (Min.) admitted that in a Memorandum issued by the Board of Agriculture and Local Government Board it was suggested that school children should be employed in the collection of the heads of sparrows, both adult birds and nestlings, at a payment of so much per head, under the supervision of the teachers. He said: "The educational value attaching to the decapitation of sparrows does not, in the mind of the Board of Education, possess any positive educational value, and, accordingly, I shall not instruct that the subject be added to the curriculum of our public elementary schools."

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Mr. Lynch (N.) was told by Mr. Long (U.) that the proposals to establish a republican form of government in the Dominions, which he sent to him by letter to lay before the Imperial War Conference, were not worthy of the consideration of the Conference, and therefore he had returned the letter to Mr. Lynch.

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Mr. Bonar Law (U.) stated that an article by Mr. Norman Angell posted to America was censored because it contained a statement that America throughout the War had not been neutral, but had been engaged in war against Germany.

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Mr. Hogge (L.) drew attention to the neglect and death of Gunner Charles Sim, who had been medically rejected six times, but was passed C1 in February, 1917, transferred to A, and sent to Piershill Barracks, Edinburgh, where he received severe drill, was inoculated, vaccinated and became ill with a severe influenza cold. His father called at the Barracks and found him lying on straw in the gymnasium, unwashed and unattended for two days. He was removed to hospital, but died of bronchial pneumonia and meningitis.

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The Finance Bill was further discussed.

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The Billeting of Civilians Bill was recommitted, read a third time, and passed, the Government having brought forward a clause to compensate householders for "direct loss or damage, including loss of earnings" caused by the person billeted "being infected with or spreading infectious disease."

COERCION OF WORKERS BILL.

The Bill to extend the Munitions Act to work other than munition work was considered in committee. Mr. Pringle (L.), moved to omit Section 7, which forces a worker who leaves his employment without a certificate to remain out of work for six weeks. He said that undoubtedly this is used for the convenience of employers, who, whilst pretending that men are indispensable to them, threaten to hand them over to the military authorities. Mr. Kellaway (L. Min.), on behalf of the Government, refused to accept the amendment, saying that Trade Unionists had accepted the provision "with good sense and good faith," and that a member of a deputation from the Amalgamated Society of Engineers had said that the Act was "working well" now and that there were "few complaints." Challenged by Mr. Tom Richardson (Lab.), Mr. Kellaway had to admit that this was purely an expression of personal opinion by a particular member of the deputation, and that the A.S.E. has refused to agree to the extension of the Act. Many Members reported that Trade Unions in their constituencies have protested against the Bill, and especially against this clause, but it was carried by 92 votes to 35. Mr. Watt moved to exclude agriculture from the provisions of the clause on the ground that much agricultural work is purely seasonal. Mr. Kellaway replied that agriculture is not to come under the Munitions Act, but refused to put the assurance in the Bill. Another pledge!

Mr. Pringle (L.) moved that the measure should not be extended to new trades, except where the Minister has made an agreement with the Trade Unions concerned. Mr. Kellaway said of course there would be agreement, but rejected the amendment. Still another pledge!

THE BETRAYAL OF THE SOLDIER.

Clause 2 provides that "in any readjustment of staff which may have to be affected after the War," men who left the employer to serve with the colours or under the Ministry of Munitions shall be given the first chance of work. Mr. Watt moved to leave out the words "in any readjustment of staffs which may have to be effected." He pointed out that if these words remained the right of the soldier to his old job would disappear, for the employer could say, "I have not had to affect a re-adjustment of staff, and therefore am under no obligation to take you back." Mr. Kellaway resisted the amendment with paltry excuses, and it was defeated by 25 votes to 71. Another pledge is broken. The soldiers and sailors have been cheated in regard to pensions, now the promise to give them back their employment is withdrawn!

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In the Budget debate, which is dealt with in our leading article, Mr. T. M. Healy (N.) referring to the Amusements Tax in Ireland, told the following remarkable story. Within the last six months the police presented themselves at an outdoor sports in the County of Limerick, and the gatekeeper demanded the entrance fee. The police took the man by the throat and hauled him off to the police-station. He was charged under the Defence of the Realm Act with obstructing the police. His solicitor, Mr. Moran, produced an official circular ordering the police to pay on such occasions, whereupon Mr. Moran was ordered to Dublin and asked where he got the circular. He said he was privileged as a solicitor, and refused to answer. He was court-martialled and sentenced to six months' imprisonment. When Mr. Moran had served two or three months' imprisonment he was discharged, and was received with bands and tar barrels in Limerick. The people were attacked by the police, and some score of men were imprisoned for welcoming Mr. Moran home.

FOREIGN NEWS

THE WORKERS' INTERNATIONAL.

A glorious manifestation took place on May 1st in Petrograd. All the shops and restaurants were closed and traffic stopped. The whole population was out from early morning—the people literally took possession of the town. No police kept order and yet no trouble occurred.

It was a magnificent and peaceful demonstration of a people who enjoyed freedom.

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In Stockholm the May Day demonstration was the greatest ever seen in the town. One hundred thousand persons took part in it. The authorities took exceptional measures to preserve order.

MAY 1st OFFICIAL HOLIDAY IN NORWAY.

The authorities in Christiania decided by 11 votes to 10 that May 1st should be recognised by law as an official holiday.

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It is reported that extraordinary measures have been taken in Germany to prevent news coming through. Essen in particular is said to be quite isolated from other parts of Germany in order to keep knowledge concerning strikes at Krupp's factories from spreading to other districts.

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In Switzerland the May Day demonstration this year was held against high food prices, against the War, for Peace, for the liberation of humanity, for Socialism, against secret diplomacy.

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The Liberal and Socialist parties in Sweden have adopted a motion demanding that Parliament shall control foreign policy.

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High food prices have caused serious trouble in Ajaccio (Corsica). Angry crowds stole quantities of food from the markets. The authorities then appealed to the population for calm, and promised to take measures against high food prices.

FOR PEACE.

The "Vorwärts" publishes an important article in which it urges the German Government to declare that it will conclude Peace without any sacrifice of territory or indemnities for the belligerent Powers.

It is reported that the German Foreign Minister has invited all journalists from neutral countries residing in Berlin to a secret conference in which he will make statements concerning German war aims.

RUSSIA'S REORGANISATION.

At the end of May a mass conference of the Russian peasants will be held. The peasants form about 75 per cent. of the whole Russian population and 80 per cent. of the army. Their attitude is, therefore, of tremendous importance.

The revolutionary Lenin demands the immediate partition of the soil amongst the peasants and the immediate conclusion of Peace.

In different parts of Russia agrarian trouble is springing up. The peasants demand immediate partition of the soil. The owners of the soil fear compulsory expropriation.

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The "Berner Tagwacht" publishes a Petrograd telegram of April 19th stating that: "The Entente Governments have established a control list containing names of exiles whose return to Russia is not desirable." The "Berner Tagwacht" says it is clear that this black list was established in order to prevent Socialist-Internationalists like Lenin, Linoview and others from returning to their country. That is why Lenin had to return to Russia through Germany.

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Great military revolts have taken place in Tchingtau (China). Many houses have been burned.

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On May 8th a general congress of the Russian Army will be held.

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Great troubles occurred in Helsingfors (Finland) as a result of high food prices. Several hundred people, amongst whom some were armed, have compelled the grocers to lower food prices.

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The Bulgarian Socialists have been officially invited by the International Bureau to take part in the Conference in Stockholm.

PROHIBITION OF ALCOHOL IN RUSSIA.

The proposal to introduce permanent temperance in Russia has been accepted by the Duma.

THE POPE AND THE WAR.

The "Journal du Peuple" announces that the Consistory will hold a secret meeting. A solemn protest against the crimes of the War is expected.

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According to the "Corriere d'Italia," the German Government has stopped the deportations of the Belgian people as a result of the Pope's intervention. Out of the 60,000 deported, 13,000 have been sent back to Belgium.

THE
WORKERS' SUFFRAGE FEDERATION

To secure Human Suffrage, namely, a Vote for every Woman and Man of full age, and to win Social and Economic Freedom for the People.

Entrance Fee ... ... 1d.
Minimum Subscription... 1d. a month

I wish to become a Member of the W.S.F. and enclose.....subscription and entrance fee for.....months.

***Name*.....**

***Address*.....**

WHAT'S ON?
W.S.F. FIXTURES
OUTDOOR

FRIDAY, MAY 11th.
Beckton Road, Canning Town, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
SATURDAY, MAY 12th.
Morning Lane and Well Street, Hackney, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Piggott Street, Poplar, 3 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
SUNDAY, MAY 13th.
Osborn Street, Whitechapel, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Walker.
The Grove, Stratford, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
Highbury Corner, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall.
"Salmon and Ball," Bethnal Green, 11.45 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Victoria Park, 4 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Lynch.
"Whitmore Head," Hoxton, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
MONDAY, MAY 14th.
Clock Tower, Burdett Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
TUESDAY, MAY 15th.
Bonner Lane, Old Ford Road, 11.30 a.m., Miss Price.
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16th.
Grundy Street, Poplar, 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Wednesday, May 16th, 8 p.m., 49 Crediton Road, Tidal Basin, Branch meeting.
THURSDAY, MAY 17th.
Amagh Road, Bow, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Cannon Street Road, 7.30 p.m., Practice Class.
FRIDAY, MAY 18th.
"Obelisk," Bow, 7 p.m., Mrs. Boyce, Mrs. Cressall.
SATURDAY, MAY 19th.
Well Street and Morning Lane, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Boyce.
Hague Street, Bethnal Green, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
"Salmon and Ball," 6.30 p.m., Mrs. Boyce.

INDOOR

CHANDOS HALL "At Home," 21a Maiden Lane (off Bedford Street, Strand)—To-day (Saturday), 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Cedar Paul, "Militarism and Parenthood"; Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, "The Present Outlook." May 19th, Percy Bigland, "Criminal Law Amendment Bill"; Miss N. Smyth, "The Present Outlook."

BOW WOMEN'S HALL, 400 Old Ford Road.—Sunday, May 13th, 7 p.m., Mr. E. J. Smith (League of Peace and Freedom), "Sex and Personality." Chair, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. May 20th, Miss Amy Haughton, B.A., "The Education We Need." Chair, Mrs. Drake. May 21st, 8 p.m., General Members' Meeting, London Section. Wednesday, 8 p.m., Singing Class.

BROMLEY, 53 St. Leonard's Street. Monday, May 14th, 2 p.m., Miss Price.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street.—Wednesday, May 16th, 8.15 p.m., Mr. Fred Hughes, "Labour and Civil Liberty."

ST. STEPHEN'S SHOP, 85 Hoxton Street.—Thursday, May 17th, 8.15 p.m., Mrs. Drake.

W.S.F. ANNUAL CONFERENCE FUNCTIONS.
SOCIAL AND DANCE.

Social and Dance on Saturday, May 26th, 8 to 11 p.m., in the Library of the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, E.C.

Special attractions: International Pageant; monologues by Ethel Warwick; violin solos by Edward Soermus; dance by Joan Cheney; speech by Sylvia Pankhurst.

Dancing 9.30 —11. Curio stall, literature, refreshments. Tickets, 1s. 2d. (including tax).

PUBLIC MEETING.

CHANDOS HALL.—Sunday, May 27th, 7 p.m. Public meeting. Speakers will include delegates from the provinces.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

KINGSLEY HALL meetings—8.15 p.m., Sunday, May 13th—Speaker: Rev. Leyton Richards; open discussion 9.30 p.m. Sunday, May 20th—Speaker: W. Paton. Sunday, May 27th—Speaker: Stanley James. Sunday, June 3rd—Speaker: Rosa Waugh Hobhouse.

WALTHAMSTOW.—William Morris Hall, Tuesday, May 15th, 2.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.

W.S.F. PUBLICATIONS
PUBLISHED AT 400 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW, E.

"Mothers' Pensions"
An account of what ought properly to be called Child Pensions, as administered in 27 out of 48 States of America. Price 1d.; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Birthrate,"
Notes and Views on the Report of the National Birthrate Commission, by E. Sylvia Pankhurst. Price 1d; post free, 1½d. 9d. per dozen.

"The Execution of an East London Boy"
including his letters to his Mother. ½d. each; post free, 1d.

W.S.F. REPORT OF SOCIAL WORK IN 1915. PRICE 2d. ILLUSTRATED. Postage, ½d.

Bound Volumes I and II of "Woman's Dreadnought now ready, price 6/6 each. To be obtained at 400 Old Ford Road, London, E. Postage, 7d. extra.

"That Won't Suit My Lot" A Poplar Woman's Views on the Food Question by Mrs. Walker. Price 4 a penny.

Curios and Bazaar articles are needed for the Curio Stall at the A.C. Social at Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 26th. Who will send some?

THE BUDGET—(continued from back page).

dealing work on the girls of Australia and New Zealand, of India and Africa. To further benefit the capitalists, for whose service Armies and Navies exist, the establishment of preferential tariffs for the Empire and Dominions were resolved on, and the provision, out of monies provided by the people, of further facilities for extending private trade.

THE MILITARY STANDPOINT.

The hide-bound materialism of the members of the Conference revealed itself in the resolution:—

That the attention of the authorities concerned be called to the temptations to which our soldiers when on leave are subjected, and that such authorities be empowered by legislation or otherwise: (1) To protect our men by having the streets, the neighbourhood of camps, and other places of public resort kept clear, as far as practicable, of women of the prostitute class; and (2) To take any other steps that may be necessary to remedy the serious evil that exists.

Evidently no suspicion entered the region of their consciousness that militarism with its savage ideals and barrack system is the mainspring of the thing they would attack.

The only glimmerings of progressive thought which appear to have penetrated the Conference are shown in the resolutions that India should be admitted to full representation at future conferences and that the various component parts of the Empire should be consulted in regard to Imperial foreign policy. But even these demands are incomplete; there is no statement that India's representatives should be chosen by the mass of her population, or that the peoples of the Empire, as distinct from the Governments sitting in secret conclave, should exercise their vote and voice in the foreign policy in which all of us are involved.

The members of the Imperial Conference passed no resolutions concerning the immediate provision of food for our people: they made no statement as to the terms on which the Empire is ready to agree to Peace. They discussed the matter of soldiers' graves; the far-away graves of brothers, sons and husbands, which those who mourn for them will never see, but they said no word of how to prevent our men from meeting an untimely death. They said that the provision of land for dead men's graveyards must be included in the terms of Peace; but no thought of land for our children's homes, or of food now for their hungry mouths appears to have been in their minds.

"No annexations: no indemnities: make Peace on those terms!" The awakened workers of Russia send forth that cry to the peoples of the world. But the members of the Imperial Conference have parted without hearing it, and the belligerent Governments still refuse to heed.

To the people of this country, as to the peoples of all the world, the Russian workers say: "Demand Peace without annexations or indemnities: demand political freedom, one vote for every adult man and woman: demand release from economic enslavement!"

Is Britain to have the future desired by the Russian revolutionaries, or that predicted by Mr. Bonar Law? The people will decide. When will they understand that the choice is theirs?

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

WANTS.

The horrors of war are daily increasing the need for widening the field of usefulness of our clinics. Until such time as existing home conditions are efficiently dealt with numbers of people in distress must either be helped or left unheeded to add to the degradation and misery that will confront us after the War.

We appeal for generous evidence of practical sympathy from all who realise the serious extent of these growing needs, and their national importance.

Please make cheques payable to the Hon. Treasurer, Dr. Barbara Tchaykovsky, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

All our clinics need your help. The babies at the "Mothers' Arms" would be grateful to have their cot mattresses renovated and covered, for they suffer constant wear.

Will someone find material, old or new, for this purpose, also new cot macintoshes?

The elder children, who enjoy walks in the park, would be glad of sun hats, garden toys, and more voluntary helpers to take them out.

As most of our elder children remain with us, and our small babies have grown into toddlers, we find a great shortage of small chairs, and it would be welcome news at the nursery to hear that some chairs had been forwarded to the "Mothers' Arms."

Will those who have helped our babies by their kindly interest in the past, and who have the national welfare at heart, volunteer to be the means of getting us funds in Baby Week?

LUCY BURGIS, Secretary to the Mothers' Arms.

ELECTRIC MACHINE BAKERY
91 BURDETT ROAD, MILE END
W. WOODS & SONS, *Family Bakers*

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED
HELD OVER FROM LAST WEEK.

GENERAL FUND.—Royle A. Richmond, £1; Irene, per Mrs. Drake, £1; Leeds W.S.F., £1; Miss Green, 1s. 6d. COLLECTIONS: Special Collection, per Mr. Claughton (Leeds), 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Bouvier, 4s.; Bow Women's Hall, 2s. 10d.; Miss Price, 1s.

BROKEN WINDOWS.—"Foy," 10s.; Four Jewish Comrades, 4s.; Miss Mardon, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Herebergova, 2s.; Mr. and Mrs. Pascoe, 1s.; Mrs. Furley and Miss Carr, 6d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Poplar sale of old "DREADNOUGHTS," £1 2s.; Miss Isaacs, 2s.; Mr. Rout, 6d.

BABIES AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—Miss Evelyn Sharpe, £2; Misses Gulland, £1 10s.; Miss Hinton, £1; Nurse Hebbes (weekly), 12s.; Miss M. C. Watson, 10s.; Mrs. Richmond (fortnightly), 10s.; A. B., 2s. 2d.; Elsa Lanchester, 2s.; Mr. Stiebel (1s. weekly), 2s.; Mrs. Haigh, 1s. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool-room, £1 8s. 11d.; Bow sale of clothes, per Mrs. Payne, 11s.; Miss Mackay (Churn), 11s. 9½d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 9s. 4d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 4s. 11½d.; Mothers' Arms Collecting Box, 2s. 10d.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Mrs. Edmond, Mrs. Allan, Anon, Misses Gulland, Mrs. Payne.

FLOWERS.—Miss Mackenzie, Mrs. Trevelyan, Mrs. Minturn Scott.

GROCERIES.—Hampstead National Food Fund.

GENERAL FUND.—Irene, per Mrs. Drake (weekly), £1; Mrs. Albery, £1; Miss E. Lowy (monthly), 10s.; F. W. Shorrocks, 5s.; Four Jewish Comrades, 4s.; Anon, 4s.; Miss Dorothy L. Flint, 3s.; Miss Reed, 2s.; E. Scott Bader, Esq., 1s. 6d.; Mrs. Brimley, 1s.; Mr. Burton, 1s.; Mr. Rout, 3d. COLLECTIONS: Mrs. Boyce, 8s. 2½d.; Chandos Hall, 6s. 11½d.; Profit on Tea, 1s. 1d.; Miss Price, 6s. 6d.; Bow Members' Meeting, 1s. 6½d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Miss P. Anderson, 3s. 6d.; Anon, per Miss Pankhurst, 1s. 11d.; Miss J. T. Drewry, 1s.; Mrs. Timkay, 1s.; Mr. Rout, 3d.

LIBEL ACTION FUND.—Mrs. Judson, 2s. 6d.

DAMAGED WINDOWS.—Mr. and Mrs. F. K. Harris, 7s.; Thomas Thomas, Esq., 2s.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—W. E. L. (Greytown), per Miss Handley, £2; Misses Mann (monthly), £1; Mr. W. J. Woods, £1; Contessa Tomasi Isolani, £1; Miss E. M. Morgan (5s. monthly), £1; Mrs. Usherwood, 12s. 6d.; Mrs. Pearce Serocold, 10s.; Sale of Clothes, 8s.; Mrs. Wheaton, 7s.; Misses Barrowman (monthly), 5s.; D. Wilkie, Esq. monthly), 2s. 6d.; Miss E. Burden, 2s.; Mrs. Hough, 1s.; per Miss F. Whitehead, 1s.; Mr. Stiebel (weekly), 1s.; Mr. Rout, 6d.; Teddy the Flower Seller, 6d. COLLECTIONS: L.S.A. Tool Room, £1 7s. 6½d.; Mrs. Judson, £1 3s. 6d.; Misses E. Lagsding and L. Barker (Green's Yard), 10s. 0½d.; Misses K. Lagsding and T. Barker (Cubitt Town), 5s. 0½d.; Mrs. Wilkinson, 2s. 6d.

CHILDREN'S CLOTHES.—Mrs. Minturn Scott, Mrs. Payne, Miss Wilson, Mrs. G. Benn White, Mrs. E. E. White, Mrs. Kinton.

BABY FOOD.—Mrs. Trevelyan.

MOTHERS AND BABIES

The Mothers' Arms, 438 Old Ford Road, Bow.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

Health Talks for Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

Dental Clinic, June 6th, 2.15 p.m.

20 Railway Street, Poplar.
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Thursdays, 2.30 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley-by-Bow.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Fridays, 10.30 a.m.

All mothers and children are welcome.

Cost Price Restaurants at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants, flowers and branches for all our centres and for the L.C.C. schools. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Clippings of Material of all kinds (must measure atlea 5 b 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

MISCELLANEOUS ADVERTISEMENTS

FAMILY LIMITATION DOCTRINE. Post free, 1½d. —Malthusian League, Queen Anne's Chambers, Westminster.

SUFFRAGE WORKERS should spend their holidays at "Sea View," Victoria Road, Brighton. Hostess, Miss Turner.

HALL TO LET, for meetings, etc. Holds 60. Terms moderate.—Apply, Miss Beamish, St. Stephen's Shop, 85 Hoxton Street, N.

SOUTHEND: Apartments or Bed-Sitting Room, near bandstand, pier.—C., 1 Grange Gardens, Southend.

WANTED, Situation as **COOK** in Restaurant or Hotel; good references. Apply Box 22, 400 Old Ford Road, E.

SOUTHEND: Furnished Apartments, 8 minutes from sea and train; a Furnished House conveniently situated.—Apply "400" this Office.

Charge for advertising in this column, 1d. per word; four insertions for the price of three.

FOOD AND COAL IN FRANCE.

The French Government is taking control of coal; it will be the sole importer and vendor. Paris milk is to be dealt with by the Government and the Municipality. The price of wheat is to be raised, but the State will pay the difference, in order that the cost of bread may not be raised.

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